



WITHAM URBAN DISTRICT COUNCIL

REPORT OF THE

MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH

for the year

1972

together with the

REPORT OF THE

CHIEF PUBLIC HEALTH INSPECTOR

BRAINTREE, DUNMOW AND WITHAM  
UNITED DISTRICTS

With the Compliments  
of  
The Medical Officer of Health

Public Health Department  
Town Hall  
Braintree  
CM7 6HB

Braintree  
226

WITHAM URBAN DISTRICT COUNCIL

PUBLIC HEALTH COMMITTEE 1972 - 1973

Chairman:

Councillor Mrs. J.M. Lyon

Members:

Councillor Reverend J.J. Barrett  
Councillor R. Berry  
Councillor R.V.C. Brown  
Councillor J.E.B. Gyford (Vice Chairman of Committee)  
Councillor W.A. Marsh (Chairman of the Council) (ex officio)  
Councillor S.E. Smith (Vice Chairman of the Council) (ex officio)  
Councillor D.K. Willett

PUBLIC HEALTH OFFICERS

Medical Officer of Health:

Elizabeth J. Vaughan, M.R.C.S., L.R.C.P., D.P.H., M.F.C.M.

Chief Public Health Inspector:

E.H.C. Wadhams, F.R.S.H., F.A.P.H.I., F.I.P.H.E.

Deputy Public Health Inspector and  
Inspector of Meat and Other Foods:

D. Stedman, M.A.P.H.I.

Additional Public Health Inspector:

P.B. Shailer, M.R.S.H., M.A.P.H.I.

Technical Assistant:

Mrs. H.H. Read (from 24th July, 1972)

Clerical Assistants:

Mrs. M.L. Budds  
Miss H.M. Crimmins (from 4th April, 1972)



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This page is normally occupied by the Medical Officer of Health's introduction to the year's Annual Report. Unfortunately, Dr. Vaughan's untimely and tragic death occurred before she had the opportunity to write one.

The page is therefore inserted as a tribute to Dr. Vaughan's dedication to public health, her especial concern for the elderly, the handicapped, and the very young, and her true sense of involvement in human welfare and its service.



Public Health Department,  
Council Offices,  
Collingwood Road,  
Witham,  
Essex.

October, 1973

To The Chairman and Members of the  
Witham Urban District Council:

Mr. Chairman, Ladies and Gentlemen,

The preparation of this Report has been overshadowed by the sad death of your Medical Officer of Health as its compilation was nearing completion.

Dr. Vaughan's introductory comments are therefore missing. However, in paying my own sincere tribute to her I believe that as well as again drawing attention to the needs of the aged and the handicapped, she would have repeated some warning words regarding the dangers of smoking and deplored the continued lack of the benefits of water fluoridation. Dr. Vaughan would also undoubtedly have observed that the abnormal incidence of Dysentery did not involve a public outbreak, almost all the cases having occurred within the confines of the local hospital. Dr. Vaughan felt that the containment of the infection within the hospital was a tribute to its management and medical staff. The general health statistics of the area remained satisfactory, and appear to call for no especial comment.

For my own contribution, I am inclined to let the Report speak for itself. The year's activity was a steady continuation of previous progress, with the added interest of some preliminary preparatory work for the reorganisation amalgamation in 1974.

It is perhaps regrettable that the town development scheme, started in 1965, having entered its final phase, could not have been brought to its intended balanced completion by the Authority which had the inspiration and the dedication to undertake it. No doubt, however, the new Witham will constitute a vigorous and important section of the new larger district.

I must again express my sincere appreciation of the interest and support accorded to the Department by the Members of the Council, its Officers and Staff, and to thank the members of my own staff for their continued loyalty and support.

I am, Mr. Chairman, Ladies and Gentlemen,

Your obedient Servant,

E.H.C. WADHAMS

Chief Public Health Inspector







STATISTICS AND LOCAL CONDITIONS OF THE AREA

Area (in acres)	...	...	...	...	7,329
Population (Registrar General's estimate)	...	...	...	...	18,520
Number of inhabited houses	...	...	...	...	6,491
Rateable value	...	...	...	...	£1,026,117
Sum represented by a penny rate	...	...	...	...	£9,400

VITAL STATISTICS

<u>LIVE BIRTHS</u>	<u>Male</u>	<u>Female</u>	<u>Total</u>
Legitimate	412	199	411
Illegitimate	7	10	17
Total live births	419	209	428
Birth rate per 1,000 estimated population	...	...	23.1
Illegitimate live births per cent of total live births	...	...	4.0
Birth rate corrected by comparability figure of 0.76	...	...	17.6
Birth rate for England and Wales per 1,000 population	...	...	14.8

<u>STILL BIRTHS</u>	<u>Male</u>	<u>Female</u>	<u>Total</u>
Legitimate	4	1	5
Illegitimate	2	-	2
Rate per 1,000 total live and still births	...	...	16.0
Rate per 1,000 total births England and Wales	...	...	12.0
Total live and still births -	435		

INFANT DEATHS

Deaths of infants under 1 year -

	<u>Male</u>	<u>Female</u>	<u>Total</u>
Legitimate	-	4	4
Illegitimate	-	-	-
Total infant deaths	-	4	4

INFANT MORTALITY

Total infant deaths per 1,000 total live births	...	9.0
Legitimate infant deaths per 1,000 legitimate live births	...	10.0
Illegitimate infant deaths per 1,000 illegitimate live births	...	Nil
Neo-natal mortality rate (deaths under 4 weeks per 1,000 total live births)	...	9.0
Early neo-natal mortality rate (deaths under 1 week per 1,000 total live births)	...	9.0
Perinatal mortality rate (stillbirths and deaths under one week combined per 1,000 total live and still births)	...	25.0
Infantile mortality for England and Wales per 1,000 live births	...	17.0

MATERNAL MORTALITY (including abortion)

Number of deaths	...	Nil
Rate per 1,000 total live and still births	...	Nil

<u>DEATHS</u>	<u>Male</u>	<u>Female</u>	<u>Total</u>
	88	74	162
Death rate per 1,000 estimate population	...	...	8.7
Death rate corrected by comparability figure of 1.19	...	...	10.4
Death rate per 1,000 population England and Wales	...	...	12.1

All the above rates are calculated on the estimated population given by the Registrar General.

DEATHS FROM ALL CAUSES 1972

The table below was compiled from figures supplied by the Registrar General and the classification is given under the seventy-three headings based on the International Abbreviated List (B list) of the International Classification. The original list, circulated to Medical Officers of Health in 1968, has been changed to include additional headings in order to improve comparability with statistics published each year in the Registrar General's Statistical Review. Only those cause headings with deaths allocated to them are shown.

			<u>Male</u>	<u>Female</u>
Malignant neoplasm, buccal cavity etc.	...	...	3	-
Malignant neoplasm, stomach	...	...	1	-
Malignant neoplasm, lung, bronchus	...	...	8	1
Malignant neoplasm, breast	...	...	-	6
Other malignant neoplasms	...	...	4	7
Benign and unspecified neoplasms	...	...	2	-
Diabetes mellitus	...	...	2	1
Anaemias	...	...	-	1
Other diseases of nervous system	...	...	-	1
Ischaemic heart disease	...	...	29	25
Other forms of heart disease	...	...	3	4
Cerebrovascular disease	...	...	4	10
Other diseases of circulatory system	...	...	5	1
Influenza	...	...	-	1
Pneumonia	...	...	12	5
Bronchitis and emphysema	...	...	3	2
Other diseases of respiratory system	...	...	1	-
Intestinal obstruction and hernia	...	...	2	2
Cirrhosis of liver	...	...	-	1
Other diseases of digestive system	...	...	-	1
Nephritis and nephrosis	...	...	2	-
Hyperplasia of prostate	...	...	1	-
Other diseases, genito-urinary system	...	...	-	1
Congenital anomalies	...	...	1	2
Birth injury, difficult labour, etc.	...	...	-	1
Other causes of perinatal mortality	...	...	-	1
Motor vehicle accidents	...	...	1	-
All other accidents	...	...	2	-
Suicide and self-inflicted injuries	...	...	2	-
Total All Causes			88	74

BIRTH RATE/DEATH RATE TRENDS IN RECENT YEARS

YEAR	POPULATION	CORRECTED BIRTH RATE		CORRECTED DEATH RATE	
		<u>National</u>	<u>Witham</u>	<u>National</u>	<u>Witham</u>
1962	9,650	18.0	18.6	11.9	12.3
1963	9,860	18.2	18.8	12.2	11.3
1964	10,190	18.4	18.1	11.3	10.1
1965	10,666	18.0	22.6	11.5	8.7
1966	10,880	17.7	19.0	11.7	10.2
1967	11,780	17.2	20.8	11.2	8.6
1968	12,750	16.9	19.5	11.9	11.8
1969	13,080	16.3	24.6	11.9	10.2
1970	16,270	16.0	25.3	11.7	12.2
1971	17,390	16.0	26.7	11.6	10.5
1972	18,520	14.8	17.6	12.1	8.7



GENERAL PROVISIONS OF PUBLIC HEALTH SERVICES

(a) Under the control of the Essex County Council:-

(i) Clinics were held at the following Centres during the year:-

WITHAM Essex County Health Services Clinic, Guithavon Street.

			<u>Attendances</u>
Child Health	Every Tuesday	9.30 a.m.)	
	1st and 3rd Wednesdays	2 p.m.)	2,872
Child Health			
Immunisation	2nd and 4th Monday	2 p.m.	422
School Clinic	1st and 3rd Thursdays	9 a.m.	
	3rd Friday	2 p.m.	102
Dental Clinic	Every Tuesday and Thursday	10 a.m.	
		(By Appt.)	2,332
Speech Therapy	Every Wednesday and Thursday	(By Appt.)	283
The Family Planning Association provides services at the following time	Monday	6.30 p.m.	

SILVER END Garden Village Hall.

Child Health	1st Friday	2 p.m.	539
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(ii) Home Help Service

This service is administered from the Social Services Department, America Street, Off Wantz Road, Maldon.

(iii) Ambulance Service

The Essex County Council Ambulance Station is situated at Guithavon Street, Witham. There is one ambulance and one vehicle for sitting cases. A full 24-hour cover is provided.

(iv) Laboratory Services

The Essex County Council provide a laboratory service which includes the bacteriological and chemical analysis of water samples, the chemical analysis of sewage effluents and the bacteriological examination of ice cream, and the examination of other foods for pathogenic organisms. These examinations are carried out by either the Counties Public Health Laboratories, Gray's Inn Road, London, W.C.1. or the Public Health Laboratory, Chelmsford and Essex Hospital, New London Road, Chelmsford.

(b) Under the control of the North-East Metropolitan Regional Hospital Board:-

(i) Chest Clinics Held twice weekly at St. Michael's Hospital, Braintree.

(ii) Orthopaedic Clinics Orthopaedic patients who need special advice are referred to Notley Hospital.

PREVALENCE OF AND CONTROL OVER INFECTIOUS DISEASE

DISEASES	Total Notified	Admitted to Hospital	Total Deaths
phtheria	-	-	-
rsentery	75	68	-
cephalitis	-	-	-
ood Poisoning	4	-	-
fective Hepatitis	4	-	-
asles	20	-	-
eningococcal Infection	-	-	-
aralytic Poliomyelitis	-	-	-
on-paralytic Poliomyelitis	-	-	-
arlet Fever	1	-	-
uberculosis, Pulmonary	-	-	-
uberculosis, Non-pulmonary	-	-	-
hooping Cough	-	-	-
Totals	104	68	-

INFECTIOUS DISEASES NOTIFIED MONTH BY MONTH

DISEASES	Total Notified	Jan.	Feb.	Mar.	Apr.	May	June	July	Aug.	Sept.	Oct.	Nov.	Dec.
Diphtheria	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Dysentery	75	-	1	6	5	9	18	12	13	3	4	4	-
Encephalitis	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Food Poisoning	4	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	2	2	-	-
Infective Hepatitis	4	2	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	2	-	-
Measles	20	-	-	-	2	1	-	12	1	-	-	4	-
Meningococcal Infection	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Paralytic Poliomyelitis	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Non-paralytic Poliomyelitis	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Scarlet Fever	1	-	-	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Tuberculosis, Pulmonary	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Tuberculosis, Non-pulmonary	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Whooping Cough	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Totals	104	2	1	6	8	10	18	24	14	5	8	8	-

INFECTIOUS DISEASES NOTIFIED ACCORDING TO AGE

DISEASES	At all ages										Under 1 year									
	1	2	3	4	5	9	10	14	15	20	34	35	44	45	64	65 and over	Age unknown			
Diphtheria	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-			
Dysentery	75	1	-	2	2	2	-	-	-	25	-	18	22	-	4	-	-			
Encephalitis	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-			
Food Poisoning	4	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	-	1	-	-	-	-			
Infective Hepatitis	4	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	3	-	-	-	-			
Measles	20	5	1	1	5	5	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-			
Meningococcal Infection	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-			
Paralytic Poliomyelitis	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-			
Non-paralytic Poliomyelitis	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-			
Scarlet Fever	1	-	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-			
Tuberculosis, Pulmonary	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-			
Tuberculosis, Non-pulmonary	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-			
Whooping Cough	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-			
Totals	104	6	1	4	7	7	-	-	-	26	19	26	4	-	-	-	-			



TUBERCULOSIS

Age Periods	New Cases				Deaths			
	Pulmonary		Non-pulmonary		Pulmonary		Non-pulmonary	
	M	F	M	F	M	F	M	F
Under 1 year	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
1 year	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
2 years	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
3 years	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
4 years	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
5 - 9 years	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
10 - 14 years	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
15 - 19 years	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
20 - 34 years	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	-
35 - 44 years	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
45 - 64 years	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
65 and over	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Totals	1	1	-	-	-	-	-	-

These 2 cases were re-notified on taking up residence in the District during 1972.

VACCINATION AND IMMUNISATION

<u>Primary Courses</u>	<u>By General Practitioners</u>	<u>By County Staff</u>	<u>Totals</u>
Diphtheria, Pertussis and Tetanus	294	103	397
Diphtheria and Tetanus	2	15	17
Diphtheria	-	-	-
Pertussis	-	-	-
Tetanus	2	9	11
Poliomyelitis	277	125	402
Smallpox	36	-	36
B.C.G.	-	84	84
Measles	247	55	302
Rubella	-	6	6
<u>Reinforcing Doses</u>			
Diphtheria, Pertussis and Tetanus	37	2	39
Diphtheria and Tetanus	149	94	243
Diphtheria	-	-	-
Pertussis	-	-	-
Tetanus	3	33	36
Poliomyelitis	184	126	310
Smallpox	7	-	7

## HOUSING

349 new dwellings were erected during the year, 21 more than in 1971. Of these, 259 were local authority properties, compared with 182 completed during 1971. Private enterprise building completed only 90 new dwellings, as against 146 the previous year. The Council's completions comprised 195 houses, 9 bungalows, and 40 flats for G.L.C. nominees under the town development scheme, and 15 bed-sit units for local requirement.

The number of dwellings erected in the Urban District since 1945, together with the number under construction at December 31st 1972, is as follows:-

	<u>Completed</u>	<u>Under Construction</u>
By Local Authority	2829	177
By Housing Associations	30	31
By Private Enterprise	<u>1424</u>	<u>62</u>
	<u>4283</u>	<u>270</u>

The total of 270 under construction compares with 548 twelve months before, which continues the decline in house production since its peak (for Witham) of 1969, when 746 houses were completed and 611 under construction.

However, at 31st December, 1972, the Council had contracted for the erection of 86 dwellings (58 houses and 28 bungalows), work on which was due to commence in February 1973. Tenders had also been invited for a further town development estate (Phase V) of approximately 620 dwellings. At the same time the Abbeyfield Society had in hand a scheme to convert a large house into a hostel of 7 units plus a warden's flat. Private development of large estates of houses for sale was continuing under existing planning approvals, and further applications are under consideration within the town development scheme, which provides for a satisfactory eventual balance of private and local authority housing accommodation.

### Housing Need

The number of applicants for Council houses at the end of 1972 was 243 compared with 263 at the end of 1971, comprising the following categories (1971 figures in brackets):-

Ordinary list	73	(120)
Bungalow List	50	) ( 91)
Bungalow transfer list	66	) ( 22)
Single Persons Units	24	( 26)
Warden Supervised Units	30	( 4)
Slum Clearance	-	

The practice of accepting applications from engaged couples was discontinued in 1970. 52 names still remain on the list though it is expected that only a minority of these will materialise into firm applications to the ordinary list.

The Council's housing programme which has now provided some 1,826 homes for needy families from the G.L.C. area, has still to catch up with local housing needs, as the basic application list indicates.

## Housing Acts 1949-1969: Improvement Grants

During the year a total of 28 applications for grant aid were received and dealt with.

Details of applications for Improvement (previously called "Discretionary") Grants are as follows:-

	<u>1949-65</u>	<u>1966</u>	<u>1967</u>	<u>1968</u>	<u>1969</u>	<u>1970</u>	<u>1971</u>	<u>1972</u>
Submitted	47	-	4	1	5	4	7	22
Granted	46	-	4	1	5	4	6	19
Refused	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	1
Withdrawn	4	2	-	1	-	-	1	3
Schemes completed	38	2	-	4	1	3	7	4
Outstanding at December 31st.	4	0	4	0	4	5	4	19

Details of applications received for Standard Grants since their inception in 1959 are as follows:-

	<u>1959-65</u>	<u>1966</u>	<u>1967</u>	<u>1968</u>	<u>1969</u>	<u>1970</u>	<u>1971</u>	<u>1972</u>
Submitted	92	19	10	19	7	14	9	5
Granted	92	19	10	19	7	12	9	4
Withdrawn	3	2	1	5	-	2	-	1
Schemes completed	79	13	19	9	16	5	11	-
Outstanding at December 31st.	13	14	4	9	-	7	5	9

## Council House Improvement

Following a survey of all pre-war Council houses, including the large Silver End estate purchased in 1969, schemes of improvements to full Parker Morris standard were put in hand in 1972. Some 900 houses are scheduled for such improvement in due course. In a large number of these, the modernisation is so radical that temporary vacation of the houses is necessary, which inevitably slows down the rate of completions.

## General Improvement Areas

There is no area of any size which calls for large scale environmental improvement, but consideration has been given to the possibility of using this procedure in small areas of cottage properties in the older parts of the town.

## Compulsory Improvements

No action was taken under this procedure during the year. Long-standing negotiations were nearing completion at the end of the year to implement the Council's decision to acquire and improve 5 houses in default of their owner.



Condition of District Housing Stock as at Mid-1972.

For the purposes of the Department of the Environment, an assessment was made of the total stock of houses in the Urban District, and of their condition, with the following results:-

	<u>Number of Dwellings</u>	
	<u>Owned by local authority</u>	<u>Other ownership</u>
<u>UNFIT DWELLINGS: *</u>		
1. In Clearance Areas already declared:	NIL	NIL
2. In Clearance Areas to be declared	NIL	NIL
3. Not in Clearance Areas:	<u>7</u>	<u>8</u>
4. Total Unfit:	<u>7</u>	<u>8</u>
<u>DWELLINGS NOT UNFIT:</u>		
5. Up to 12 point Improvement Standard:	2510	1938
6. Capable of improvement to 12 point standard:	893	545
7. Not capable of improvement of 12 point standard:	<u>NIL</u>	<u>242</u>
Total dwellings in the area (Items 4+5+6+7):	<u>3410</u>	<u>2733</u>

\*It may be of interest to note that between 1st January 1961 and 31st December 1972, a total of 54 unfit dwellings were demolished as a result of formal action by the Council. A further 25 dwellings were demolished in the same period to make way for redevelopment of various kinds.

Housing and Public Health Acts

Demolition and Closure

The Council's 1965 clearance programme was completed in 1971, since when only a few individual dwellings have called for formal action. Two such dwellings were demolished in 1972. A number of "borderline" houses remain to be dealt with, by improvement if possible, by clearance if unavoidable. Some of these are attractive but very small old timber framed cottages, difficult and less remunerative to improve than most, which necessitates protracted negotiation to achieve the submission of satisfactory schemes.

At the end of 1972 there were 19 houses and parts of houses subject to Closing Orders or undertakings not to re-let.

Housing Act 1961:- Houses in Multiple Occupation. No action has been necessary in respect of the district's few such properties during the year.

Rent Act 1957: Certificates of Disrepair. Advice was given in response to a number of enquiries, but no applications for certificates were received.

Housing Act 1969: Qualification Certificates.

(a) Qualification Certificates:-

Applications received	7
granted	2
refused	2
withdrawn	1
in abeyance	2

Appeals NIL

(b) Certificates of Provisional Approval:-

Applications received	3
granted	2
refused	1

Inspection of Dwellinghouses during the year:-

(a)	Total number inspected for housing defects (under Public Health or Housing Acts):	92
(b)	Number found to be unfit for human habitation:	5
(c)	Number (exclusive of those in (b) ) found to be not in all respects fit for habitation:	55

Remedy of defects without service of formal notices:

(a)	Number of houses rendered fit in consequence of informal action:	29
(b)	Number of other defective conditions remedied after informal action:	47

Action under Statutory Powers - Housing Acts 1936-69  
Public Health Acts 1936-61:

(a)	Number of houses in respect of which notices were served requiring repairs:	6
(b)	Number of dwellings rendered fit after service of formal notice:	4
(c)	Demolition Orders made:	NIL
(d)	Closing Orders made:	1
(e)	Closing Orders determined (on houses being made fit):	2*
(f)	Undertakings accepted in lieu of Demolition Orders:	NIL
(g)	Unfit houses demolished after acquisition by local authority:	2

\* Closing Orders on two houses lifted after conversion into one improved dwelling.

WATER SUPPLY

The Council's water supply undertaking was transferred to the newly formed Essex Water Company on April 1st, 1971. Prior to this change, the Council had found it necessary, because of inadequate storage and loss of pressure in parts of the growing town, to extend the undertaking by the provision of a large new service reservoir and high pressure main. These were brought into service prior to the transfer of the undertaking, ensuring adequacy of a wholesome supply for present and all foreseen future needs.

Sources of supply remained as in previous years, mainly from the Essex Water Company, whose trunk mains serve the new reservoir and the two high pressure mains into the town area. The local Bradwell Spring Supply, due to its location continued to serve principally the Silver End and Rivenhall areas of the district but was only in intermittent use during the latter part of the year, when following difficulty with plant and service mains, complaints of brown discolouration and rust deposit were received. The quality of both supplies is consistently satisfactory as shown by frequent analysis. A summary of sample reports is given below:-

	<u>Satisfactory</u>	<u>Unsatisfactory</u>	<u>Total</u>
<u>Mains Water</u>			
Chemical	5	0	5
Bacteriological	6	0	6
<u>Other Supplies</u>			
Chemical	2	0	2
Bacteriological	21	6	27

Typical reports of the chemical water analyses of the mains supplies are given below:-

Bradwell Springs Supply (2.10.72)

"This sample is practically clear and bright in appearance, has a reaction on the alkaline side of neutrality and is free from metals apart from a very minute trace of iron. The water is hard in character but its hardness and its content of mineral and saline constituents in solution are not excessive. It is of satisfactory organic quality and bacterial purity.

These results indicate a pure and wholesome water suitable for drinking and domestic uses."

Essex Water Company (12.10.72)

"This sample is practically clear and bright in appearance, has a reaction on the alkaline side of neutrality and is free from metals apart from a minute trace of zinc.

The water is hard in character but its hardness and its content of mineral and saline constituents in solution are not excessive.

The water is of satisfactory organic quality.

These results indicate a pure and wholesome water suitable for drinking and domestic uses, from the aspect of the chemical analysis."



### Plumbo-Solvency

Neither of the mains supplies in use has any significant plumbo-solvent action.

### Fluoride Content

The fluoride content of the mains supplies falls far below the recommended level of 1.0 p.p.m., the maximum concentration having been found to be 0.3 p.p.m. in the South Essex supply and 0.1 p.p.m. in the Bradwell water. The Council has long been in favour of controlled fluoridation of mains supplies but has been informed that this is not yet possible, owing to the continued objection of some authorities in the Company's area of supply.

### Water consumption and future requirements

I am indebted to the Chief Engineer of the Essex Water Company for the following figures:-

The consumption in Witham during 1972 was:-

(i) from the Stour Aqueducts via Criers Wood Reservoir.....	424.079 million gallons
(ii) from Bradwell Springs .....	<u>14.917</u> " "
TOTAL	438.996

The per capita consumptions were

Unmetered .....	40.6 gallons per day
Metered .....	<u>24.3</u> " " "
	<u>64.9</u> gallons per day

The above average consumption shows radical reduction of 10.05 gallons per head per day from that for 1971, which is not easy to explain, except by possible over-assessment in 1971 (the year the undertaking changed over) when an increased consumption of 9.132 gallons per head was recorded.

With regard to future requirements, the Essex Water Company has given an assurance to the Council that adequate supplies will be available for the district's needs to the full extent of the town development scheme.

### DRAINAGE AND SEWERAGE

A further 348 houses together with a number of commercial and industrial properties were connected to the Council's sewer systems during the year. Household drainage facilities in use in the Urban District at the 31st December, 1972 were as follows:-

Houses connected to main sewer systems ... ..	6,293
Houses drained to septic tanks, cesspools etc. ...	98

## Sewer Systems

Apart from a small number of outlying properties, the whole of the Urban District is sewered, there being four separate systems serving the Witham town area, while Silver End and Rivenhall Oak/Rivenhall End which have hitherto had their own independent systems, are now largely connected to a new major trunk sewer which links the Silver End drainage area with the Witham disposal works picking up part of the Rivenhall sewage flow on its way.

Of the four sewer systems serving Witham town, the high and low level pre-war systems have been supplemented in recent years by a new low level trunk sewer following the Brain valley to serve the major part of the town development on the west and north-west. A further trunk sewer at higher level picks up flow from the developing industrial estates on the eastward side of the town. All four systems gravitate to their respective outfalls at the disposal works but the greater part of the flow then has to be lifted to the head works of the treatment plant. Infiltration and heavy storm flow in the old low level combined system still present a problem in very wet periods.

## SEWAGE DISPOSAL

There are four sewage disposal plants in the Urban District, three of which are owned and operated by the Council. The one at Silver End, as described above, is now superfluous and being run down. The fourth plant, originally serving an aerodrome and H.M. forces camp, is now owned privately and operated for part of the year only to deal with the waste effluent from a large pea vining plant. The Council's sewage disposal plants are administered by the Council's Engineer and Surveyor.

## Witham Sewage Works

This plant, extended in 1966-69, to provide for the sewage output of the developing town has a designed capacity of 1.0 m.g.d. dry weather flow. This has now been taken up by the rapidly growing town, and the Council's consulting engineers have prepared the next phase of extensions to bring the capacity to approximately 1,600,000 g.p.d., which should be adequate for the completion of the town development scheme. Work on this will commence in 1973.

The plant includes mechanical removal of detritus, comminuting of sewage solids, scraped radial flow settling tanks, traditional type percolating filters, and radial flow humus tanks. Flow control of sludge, settled sewage and recirculated effluent is power operated from the control building. Sludge after consolidation and treatment with lime and ferrous sulphate, is mechanically dewatered by vacuum filtration.

The use of large effluent lagoons as a tertiary "polishing" process had proved so eminently successful during the long years of overload on the old works that the lagoons have been kept in being for future experimental use, and possible extension.

By arrangement with the neighbouring Braintree Rural District Council fresh sewage sludge from the nearer of that Council's sewage plants is received into the Witham Works for dewatering and disposal, on mutually agreed terms. In addition, it has been found possible to use the sludge



plant to dewater the large quantities of industrial sludges which the Council removes by tanker from the effluent pre-treatment plants of local industries.

Further large-scale residential development in the Silver End area, coupled with the run-down and overloaded condition of this plant, led the Council to decide in 1969 to undertake the new trunk sewer scheme rather than continue to maintain separate disposal at Silver End. The obsolete Silver End Works is being kept temporarily in use on a decreased flow to supplement the Witham plant while the latter is being extended.

#### Rivenhall Sewage Works

This is a small plant, built in 1953 to serve the village area of Rivenhall Oak and Rivenhall End. It has a designed capacity of 18,000 g.p.d. which had been taken up in recent years by housing development in the area, and which has now been relieved by the connection of the Rivenhall Oak area, (which contributed over half the flow to this plant) to the new trunk sewer.

#### Rivenhall Camp Sewage Works

As stated above, this plant is now used for treatment of pea vining waste, and as the season for this is very short, it is out of use for the major part of the year.

#### Sampling of Sewage Effluent

The new Witham Works has full laboratory facilities, as needed to maintain modern control techniques. Routine in-plant sampling has been maintained during the year by employment of a part-time laboratory technician.

The Engineer and Surveyor has kindly supplied the following data concerning sampling of sewage effluents by the Essex River Authority.

	<u>Satisfactory</u>	<u>Unsatisfactory</u>	<u>Total</u>
Witham Sewage Works	10	2	12
Silver End Sewage Works	4	-	4
Rivenhall Sewage Works	3	1	4
	<u>17</u>	<u>3</u>	<u>20</u>

The unsatisfactory results at Witham, in March and November, coincided with off-loading of the biological filters, which gives rise to excessive suspended solids in the effluent.

The one unsatisfactory Rivenhall sample coincided with the back flushing of both humus clarifiers, a maintenance practice normally avoided but necessitated in this instance by the Easter Bank Holiday.

### DRAINAGE OF TRADE PREMISES

Control of large quantities of industrial effluent discharged to sewer has been maintained since 1949. In most cases the discharges are measured by recording instruments installed by the Council under agreements with the companies concerned based on rates and strength of flow, means of pre-treatment and negotiated charges. Periodic sampling for chemical analysis checks the observance of the quantitative conditions. At the end of 1972 the Council's Consulting Engineers were under instruction to re-assess all current industrial discharges and to make recommendations as to review of agreements, conditions and charges.

The types of trade effluents now discharged to the Council's sewers are as under:-

Metal processing (various):	3 main discharges
Poultry packing:	1 discharge
Fruit pulping and concentrates:	1 discharge
Maltings:	1 discharge
Etching and Engraving:	1 discharge
Electronics engineering:	2 discharges
Farm wastes:	2 discharges

In pre- treating their industrial effluents, some companies produce large quantities of sludge. The Council operates a road tanker removal service for disposal of these sludges on a rechargeable basis.

### PUBLIC CLEANSING

Street sweeping, road gritting and other highway cleansing services are maintained respectively both by the Essex County Council Highways Department and the Urban Council's Works Department on the county and district roads respectively.

The services of refuse collection and disposal, salvage recovery, cesspool and gulley emptying and sewer flushing are also administered by the Council's Engineer and Surveyor.

### REFUSE COLLECTION AND DISPOSAL

#### Refuse Collection

A weekly collection of house refuse from all parts of the Urban District is operated. Incentive bonus schemes, started in March 1965 to overcome difficulty in obtaining labour for this service, have since been adapted to work study schemes, still undergoing modification at the end of 1972.

Gradual conversion to the paper sack system was commenced during 1970, and by December, 1972 about 2,000 of the houses in the urban district were being serviced in this way.

At the end of the year the collection fleet comprised three rear loading vehicles, two with bulk container lift attachment, a small



side-loader, with a fore-and-aft rear loader in reserve. In addition the refuse foreman is equipped with a 3 cubic yard side-loading runabout,

A hire and emptying service is provided to local industrial and commercial premises by the use of 6 cubic yard bulk containers and is now responsible for the removal to tip of the greater part of the waste output of such premises.

### Disposal

Comments under this heading remain much the same as in previous years. Tipping, controlled as far as practicable under present conditions, has been maintained on the Council's marshland site adjoining the sewage works and within the confluence of the rivers Blackwater and Brain. Of this area, in use since 1949, very little now remains to be filled. Town development to the ultimate proposed population demands that additional adequate and satisfactory facilities be found. In 1970 the Council rejected proposals for a comprehensive scheme of mechanical disposal costing some £85,000 but in 1971 approved a plan to instal the basic unit (a pulveriser) at a cost of rather less than half this sum. Arrangements have been made to incorporate this with the proposed sewage works extensions, though in view of the impending division of responsibility after March 31st, 1974, separate control mechanisms are being provided.

Control of the present tip area is maintained by the use of mechanical shovels.

### Derelict Vehicles

A collection and disposal service for abandoned vehicles has been maintained since 1965. The vehicles are dismantled at the refuse tip before being removed as scrap by a local dealer. Charges are made to owners, when known, for removal and disposal, but residents of the Urban District are offered free disposal facilities for vehicles brought to the Council's tip. The police and the local taxation authority are notified of the registration numbers of all vehicles disposed of in this way.

### Salvage

For many years the Council recovered salvage, in the shape of waste paper, cardboard, rags and sackings, and scrap metals. The difficulty of including a naturally variable quantity of salvage in a work study refuse collection system became apparent in 1971, which together with doubt as to any financial benefit now accruing from salvage recovery, led to modification of this service in 1972, which currently deals only with salvage material brought to the refuse depot by traders.

### Civic Amenities Act

Tipping facilities in different parts of the district were put into effect during 1970 by the siting in selected areas of a number of 6 cubic yard portable refuse skips. These have been left in position for two or three days during which time they become filled with rubbish of all kinds from the householders in their vicinity, before being removed and emptied at the refuse tip and re-sited. In this manner a surprisingly large amount of refuse was being cleared and this undoubtedly prevented some of it being

dumped indiscriminately elsewhere. Unfortunately, abuse of the service with refuse in some instances being sorted and scattered, has brought the system into disrepute and the Council are considering proposals to restrict the number of sites and improve their control.

#### Cesspool, Gulley Emptying and Sewer Flushing

Nearly 100 properties in the urban district rely on cesspool or septic tank systems of drainage and the Council provides a thrice-annual emptying service for domestic premises, additional and commercial emptying being rechargeable. Considerable rechargeable work is also performed in clearing trade waste and other sludges from local industrial undertakings. The two tanker vehicles employed clear over 2 million gallons of waste annually, and in addition perform routine gulley emptying and sewer flushing throughout the area.

#### MOVEABLE DWELLINGS

For many years the Council has maintained a small caravan site with space for 12 trailer caravans, equipped with the basic amenities of hard standing, water supply, W.C. accommodation, drying ground and waste disposal facilities. Electricity supply is available to each occupier. The site is only a temporary one and falls far short of the recommended standards of layout and equipment. For this reason the Council has decided to replace it with a larger modern caravan park, to current Ministry standards, work upon which it is hoped to start during 1973.

One of the two small sites occupied by travelling showmen families had to be vacated for redevelopment during the year. Despite every assistance from the Council, it has been impossible to find an alternative site, because the County Planning Authority refuses approval for "white land" to be used, while the inflated value of development land puts it beyond economic reach for this purpose. The families are at present temporarily accommodated, not very satisfactorily, on Council property.

Occasional groups of gypsy vans stay for a few nights in the district, but there is no suitable site for them and they are encouraged to move on. Numbers of residential caravans are quartered for varying periods in the district for seasonal agricultural work and also in connection with the extensive civil engineering and similar works which are currently in progress.

There are no holiday caravan sites or camping grounds within the urban district.

#### RODENT AND OTHER PEST CONTROL

The Witham Council is a member of the Braintree, Halstead and Witham Joint Rodent Control Committee. The Committee's operatives undertake all disinfection work in the district, including disinfection of agricultural holdings under annual contract.



The number of such contracts for 1972 was 19. The free domestic treatment service remains unaltered and includes wasps and other insect pests.

Details of the year's work are as follows:-

	<u>Non-Agricultural</u>	<u>Agricultural</u>
Inspections made	473 (350)	75 (56)
Treatment visits	514 (678)	160 (150)
Infestations found: Mice	69 (117)	8 (10)
Rats (Major)	1 (5)	3 (7)
Rats (Minor)	158 (124)	7 (14)

#### Other Pests

The following cases of infestation were dealt with:-

Wasps	...	...	...	...	...	36	(65)
Bees	...	...	...	...	...	11	(4)
Rabbits	...	...	...	...	...	-	(2)
Moles	...	...	...	...	...	2	(4)
Fleas	...	...	...	...	...	-	(2)
Bed-bugs	...	...	...	...	...	-	(3)
Ants	...	...	...	...	...	4	(-)
Ground Beetles	...	...	...	...	...	3	(-)

In each case the figures in brackets are those for the previous year, 1971.

### INSPECTION AND SUPERVISION OF FOOD

#### Meat Inspection

There are no slaughterhouses within the Urban District. Checks are carried out periodically to ensure that all meat entering the area is inspected at its place of origin.

#### Poultry Packing

Daily inspections are maintained by the Department at the two Witham packing stations, special scrutiny being given to birds rejected by the plant staff for abnormality. The total average weekly output of birds is approximately 70,000. Unfit birds are wholly or partly condemned, according to the conditions found. The services of the Ministry of Health Laboratory at Chelmsford are utilised for pathological identification and differentiation of obscure conditions. Contrary to what is understood to be experienced in some districts, routine laboratory examination continues to indicate freedom from any significant incidence of Salmonellae organisms in the birds examined.

Of the two permanent packing stations in the area, the larger incorporates the most up-to-date methods of processing and packing. The by-products treatment plant has involved problem of smell which it is hoped will be reduced by the installation of effective control equipment.



One large broiler rearing unit operates in the urban district, producing some 250,000 birds annually for the packing trade. These are reared in five 8-9 week cycles, and occasional difficulty has been experienced with the build-up and clearance of ammoniated litter at the end of these. There are also a number of intensive egg-production units in the area.

Milk and Dairies

Registration and licensing of dairies and other milk premises, producers, dairymen and distributors is a responsibility shared with the Essex County Council. The following registrations were in force at the 31st December, 1972:-

	<u>Untreated</u>	<u>Pasteurised</u>	<u>Sterilised</u>	<u>U.H.T.</u>
Dairies (1)	1	19	10	8
Dealers (19)				
Premises (23)				

Ice Cream

The registration of manufacturers and vendors and their premises is carried out in the Urban District under the Essex County Council Act, 1933, and supervision is exercised to ensure compliance with the Ice Cream (Heat Treatment) Regulations 1947-1959. The number of registrations at 31st December, 1972 was:-

Manufacturers	Nil
Vendors	36
Registered Premises	38

In addition, many vendors registered in other areas operate retail sales vehicles within the Urban District.

Food Hygiene

The number of premises where food is manufactured, prepared, stored or retailed is as follows:-

Residential Hotels	5
Licensed Premises and Clubs	22
Restaurants	6
Factory & School Canteens	24
Manufacturing Butchers	2
Retail Butchers' Shops	4
Fried Fish Shops	5
Retail Wet Fish Shops	3
Supermarkets	9
Bakeries	1
Other Retail Food Shops	32
Fruit Juice Concentrates	1
Maltings	1
Poultry Packing Stations	2
Poultry and Egg Producers	2

In addition, numbers of mobile food vans tour the area and all are subject to inspection. The standard of hygiene is generally satisfactory, but in a number of cases attention was called to contraventions requiring to be rectified.

## Weekly Market

The weekly market instituted by the Council in 1970 continued to operate successfully in 1972. It is run by a private firm, under contract to the Council, and within regulations governing its conduct and operation. Some 40 stallholders now do business at the market each week. A number of these are food traders, supervision of whom is maintained to ensure compliance with the Food Hygiene (Markets, Stalls and Delivery Vehicles) Regulations, 1966. A number of contraventions were noted and warnings issued, but no formal action was necessary.

## Condemnation of Food

Considerable quantities of food are voluntarily surrendered by local traders for condemnation. In 1972, 27 tons. 18 cwts. 4 lbs. were inspected for this purpose and disposed of to the Department's requirements. The categories are as follows:-

	<u>tons</u>	<u>cwts</u>	<u>lbs</u>
Poultry	25	15	86
Cooked Meats		1	90
Canned Meats		1	15
Other Canned Foods		16	19
Fish, Fresh			14
Frozen Foods		10	95
Other Foods		12	21
Total	27	18	4

## Court Proceedings

Court action was necessary in one case under the Food Hygiene (General) Regulations, fines of £195 and costs being imposed in respect of 18 contraventions.

It was deemed appropriate also to take court action in 1 case under the Food and Drugs Act 1955 for an offence under Section 8. Details of complaints received during the year are as follows:-

	<u>Complaints</u>	<u>Summonses</u>	<u>Convictions</u>
(i) Section 2: Not of substance or quality demanded:	14	-	-
(ii) Section 2: Foreign matter in food:	7	-	-
(iii) Section 8: Unfitness for human consumption:	4	1	1
	25	1	1

Total fines and costs imposed: £20

Sampling: (Essex County Council, Weights and Measures Department)

I am indebted to the Chief Inspector and Public Protection Officer, Essex County Council Weights and Measures Department for the following tables indicating (a) the samples taken by his department in the Witham Urban District during 1972, and (b) particulars of complaints and investigations under the Trade Descriptions Act, 1968.

<u>Articles Sampled</u>	<u>Number Submitted to Analyst</u>	<u>Number found genuine</u>	<u>Number found adverse</u>
Beverages	3	3	-
Coffee	2	2	-
Soft Drinks	4	4	-
Soft Drinks (carbonated)	2	2	-
Tea	3	3	-
<u>Milk</u>			
Channel Islands	5	5	-
Homogenised	6	6	-
Pasteurised	13	13	-
School Milk	12	12	-
Sterilised	6	6	-
U.H.M.	4	4	-
	<u>60</u>	<u>60</u>	<u>-</u>

Trade Descriptions Act 1968

Summary of complaints received applicable to the Witham Urban District during 1972.

Total number of complaints	22
No. originating in Witham U.D.	11
No. originating outside Witham U.D.	11
Witham traders complained of	19
Others	3
Complaints related to price of goods	10
Second hand motor vehicles	4
Household appliances	3
Furniture and Floor Coverings	2
Clothing	1
Toys	1
Unclassified	1

No prosecutions were taken and no official cautions were sent to traders during the year. All complaints were fully investigated.

In two cases involving second hand motor vehicles, whilst no official action could be taken due to lack of a description and insufficient evidence, redress was received by the complainants.

The price enquiries and complaints which were all found to be groundless referred to the prices of trousers, bread, carpeting, car repairs, petrol, double glazing etc.

The clothing complaint referred to faulty goods and the complaint listed as unclassified was a refusal "to sell" by a trader in Witham Market.



Food Sampling (Witham Urban District Council Public Health Department)

The Department submitted the following samples for analytical and/or bacteriological examination during the year:-

	<u>Satisfactory</u>	<u>Unsatisfactory</u>
Ice Cream	5	1
Synthetic Cream	2	-
Chickens and Chicken Portions	82	-
Chicken Offals	93	-
Cooked Chicken	1	-
Sliced Meat	4	-
Meat Pies	3	-
Corned Beef	2	-
Liver Paté	1	-
Paté Normandy	1	-
Duck Paté	1	-
Ham and Egg Pie	1	-
Fresh Cream Doughnut	1	-
Cream Meringue	1	-

FACTORIES ACTS 1937-1959

During the year a total of 137 visits were paid to factories, exclusive of visits to food preparation premises, also classified as factories. The continued expansion of the new industrial estates includes a great variety of light industry. Plans for new factories are examined on submission to the Council and recommendations made as to observation of statutory requirements, sanitary accommodation, working amenity, canteen and welfare facilities, and waste disposal. At the same time, proposals for boilerhouses and furnaces are checked for compliance with the Clean Air Acts. Conditions in these new establishments are generally very satisfactory.

A number of minor contraventions were noted and rectified during the year, and as in 1971 time was spent checking noise levels in and around the larger factories. (See next section of this report).

A few outworkers are employed within the district, in the following occupation:-

14 Manufacturing Drapery

Details of the inspections made during the year of premises in the Urban District under the Factories Acts are given in Table overleaf:-

FACTORIES ACTS 1937-1959

1. INSPECTION for purposes of provisions as to health (including inspection made by Public Health Inspectors).

	Number on Register	In- spections	Written Notices	Occupiers Prosecuted
(i) Factories in which Sections, 1,2,3,4 & 6 are to be enforced by Local Authorities.	NIL	NIL	NIL	NIL
(ii) Factories not included in (i) in which Section 7 is enforced by Local Authority	77	30	4	NIL
(iii) Other premises in which Section 7 is enforced by the Local Authority (excluding outworkers)	20	10	NIL	NIL

2. CASES in which DEFECTS were found:

	Number of cases in which defects were found			Number of cases in which prosecutions
	Found	Remedied	Referred to by H.M. Inspector	
Want of cleanliness (S.1.)	-	-	-	-
Overcrowding (S.2)	-	-	-	-
Unreasonable temperature (S.3)	-	-	-	-
Inadequate ventilation (S.4)	-	-	-	-
Ineffective drainage of floors (S.6)	-	-	-	-
Sanitary conveniences (S.7)				
(a) Insufficient	-	-	-	-
(b) Unsuitable or defective	4	4	-	-
Other offences against the Act (not including offences relating to Outworkers)	-	-	-	-
TOTALS	4	4	-	-

OFFICES, SHOPS AND RAILWAY PREMISES ACT, 1963

The total number of premises locally registered in the Urban District under this Act at December 31st, 1972 was 157. They comprised the following categories, employing the numbers of personnel shown:-

<u>Class of Premises</u>	<u>No. Registered</u>	<u>No. of Persons Employed</u>
Offices:	49	366
Retail Shops:	84	453
Wholesale Shops and Warehouses:	6	37
Catering establishments and Canteens:	15	118
Fuel Storage Depots:	3	9
	<u>157</u>	<u>983</u>

Males 444: Females 539

It must be noted that these figures do not include offices within factories, Crown or nationalised industry properties, or local government offices within the urban district as these are registerable with H.M. Factory Inspectorate.

A total of 130 visits and inspections were made to registered premises during the year. Minor contraventions, 7 in number all received prompt attention from the respective managements. No major contraventions were noted and no prosecutions necessary.

One accident was reported and investigated, followed by recommendations to management.

NOISE

12 complaints were received concerning 8 sources of noise. All were investigated and some degree of noise nuisance confirmed in all 8 cases. In 6 instances remedial action followed informal representation, in 1 case a notice under Section 1 of the Noise Abatement Act 1960 was served, and the remaining instance was still under investigation at the end of the year. Details are as follows:-

<u>Source</u>	<u>Causal Agent</u>
Industrial Premises:	Metal extensions, cutting; loading; power generators.
Commercial:	Extraction fans; vehicle loading.
Domestic:	Dogs barking.
Roadworks etc:	Breakers and dumpers.

As previously noted, a start has been made on checking noise levels in and around factory buildings, and it is hoped to extend this in 1973, together with systematic assessment of district background levels for future record purposes. This work is time-consuming however, and can only be done as and when other duties permit.



## ATMOSPHERIC POLLUTION PREVENTION

Daily smoke and sulphur dioxide recordings are maintained and the records forwarded to the Fuel Research Station of the Department of Scientific and Industrial Research for inclusion in the National Survey. No significant degree of pollution has been noted, but the need remains to prevent any increase in average concentration. This has been assisted during recent years by the change from solid fuels to other forms of heating, the newly developing estates are mainly "smokeless", most houses currently being built being centrally heated. Of these, the majority to date use gas or electrical installations, which contributes to a lowering of both the smoke and sulphur dioxide output of the community, though increasing use is now also being made of oil distribution systems for estate heating. In the industrial area of the town the use of solid fuels is insignificant, most of the industrial concerns using oil-fired appliances.

All industrial furnaces and boiler installations are inspected under the provisions of the Clean Air Acts, and chimney heights for new premises are assessed in accordance with the Ministry of Housing and Local Government Memorandum. Since 1969 all commercial or industrial furnace installations have had to receive prior approval of the local authority and are subject to appropriate conditions for the prevention of air pollution.

The following is a summary of the action under the Clean Air Acts 1956-68 during the year:-

1. Dark smoke (section 1):
  - (a) Contraventions recorded 2
  - (b) Remedied by informal action 2
2. Grime and dust (Section 2 and 3/68):
  - (a) Emissions: Contraventions recorded NIL
  - (b) Arrestment plant plans submitted NIL
  - (c) Arrestment plant plans approved NIL
3. Furnaces (Section 3/68):
  - (a) Notifications recorded 4
  - (b) Applications for approval 1
  - (c) Applications granted 1
4. Chimney Heights (Section 6/68):
  - (a) Applications 7
  - (b) Alterations required in 5
  - (c) Number finally approved 7
5. Smoke control (domestic): No smoke control areas have been declared in the Urban District.

## Odour Emission

Continuing public sensitivity to industrial odours and the inadequacy of existing control measures, with the concern resulting from ineffective attempts to reduce this type of pollution, awaits the early presentation of the Department of the Environment Working Party on the problem and (it is hoped) how to deal with it. In spite of the specialist firms now proffering advice on control installations it is surprisingly difficult to find fully satisfactory answers to the highly technical problems that these emissions often represent.



In recent years the Council's officers - mainly of the Public Health Department, have been called upon to attempt to bring about the elimination of several difficult types of industrial odour and a great deal of investigation and research has been done. The firms concerned have all to a greater or lesser extent co-operated in this and have expended much time and money in their own research and in various control researches. In most cases considerable improvement has resulted but in none has complete success yet been achieved.

In the case (previously reported) of the Maltings, which commenced to operate a barley "roasthouse" in 1969, resulting in widespread complaint from the town's residents concerning the process odour, the Council's desire for enforcement action by the Planning Authority led to long-drawn-out appeal procedures and no real progress could be reported by the end of 1972.

#### REGISTRATIONS AND LICENSING OF SPECIAL PREMISES

Inspections for the purpose of registrations and licensing, and periodic revisits, are also carried out in respect of the following:-

	<u>Statute</u>	<u>No. of Registrations</u>
(i)	Rag Flock Act 1961	1
(ii)	Pet Animals Act 1964	3
(iii)	Riding Establishments Act 1963	1
(iv)	Scrap Metal Dealers Act 1964	2
(v)	The Game Act 1831	2

Supervision is also maintained of waste food collections operating in the Witham Urban District, but who are licensed in other districts.





